

elevatable support to adapt so that the elevatable support slidingly engages the movable frame;

d) wherein:

wherein the flexible connector is a chain and the drive comprises a sprocket that engages the chain; and

movement of the movable frame powered by the drive adapts the angle of the elevatable support so that the elevatable support slidingly engages the movable frame;

there is an interconnection between the elevatable support and the moveable frame, during sliding movement of the movable frame, so that the movable frame adapts the angle of the elevatable support through the interconnection; and

the lift action control mechanism is powered to control the movement of first end portion of the elevatable support member towards a raised position and to control movement of the first end portion of the elevatable support towards a lowered position.--

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 have been canceled and new claims 12-25 have been added. No new subject matter has been added. Support for the amendments to the disclosure and the new claims is found throughout the specification as currently on file. More particularly, support for claims 12, 17, and 22 is found in claims 1-3 and pages 2-4 and 6-7 and figures 1, 9, and 19 of the specification. Support for claims 13 and 23 is found at

page 16 (lines 5-10) of the specification. Support for claims 15 and 24 is found at page 19 (lines 5-22) of the specification. Support for claims 16 and 25 is found at page 10 (lines 9-19), page 23 (lines 17-22) and figures 1 and 19 of the specification. Support for claims 18 and 19 is found at page 13 (lines 29-30), page 14 and figures 9-13 of the specification. Support for claims 14 and 20 is found at page 11 (lines 5-30) and figures 9-11 of the specification. Support for claim 21 is found at page 4 (lines 6-9), page 6 (lines 12-16) and figure 1 of the specification. Claims 12, 16, 22 and 25 describe a “lift action control mechanism” support for this element is found at page 23 (lines 17-19) of the specification. Claims 18 and 19 describe a “sensing plate locking arm” support for this element is found at page 13 (lines 29-30) and page 14 (lines 1-3) of the specification.

Accordingly, claims 12-25 are presently pending, and favorable reconsideration thereof is respectfully requested. Claims 12 and 17 are the only independent claims. We note that the present claims correspond to the claims which were the subject of a favorable International Preliminary Examination Report issued by the European Patent Office on a corresponding PCT application.

Rejection Under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph

Claims 1-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. The Examiner indicates that claims 1-10 are indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the applicant regards as the invention.

To expedite prosecution, claims 1-10 are canceled and replaced with claims 12-25. Applicants respectfully request that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112 second paragraph, be withdrawn.

As required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.121, applicants have provided a separate marked-up version of the amended claims showing the changes relative to the previous version of those claims (attached).

The above amendments and remarks are believed to address fully the Examiner's rejections, and place the application in condition for allowance. A prompt indication of the same respectfully is requested. The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned if any issues remain that may be resolved by a telephonic interview.

Respectfully submitted,

KOLISCH HARTWELL, P.C.



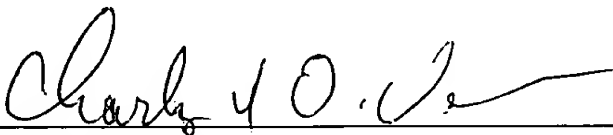
Charles H. DeVoe
Registration No. 37,305
Attorney for Applicants
Customer No. 23581
520 S.W. Yamhill Street, Suite 200
Portland, Oregon 97204
Telephone: (503) 224-6655
Facsimile: (503) 295-6679

CHD:gp

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING



I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on September 11, 2002.



Charles H. DeVoe
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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Detailed Description:

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 25, as follows.

(Amended) Referring to figures 1, 2, 3, 12 and 18, an elevatable support 17 is centrally and [rotably]rotatably attached to an axle 14 and includes a “skeleton framework” 61 having a separate guide system 59 consisting of a forwardly disposed end and a rearwardly disposed end. The guide system 59 consists of[,] a C-shaped channel 54 with an internal ramp 33, and a slide rail 44. The slide rail 44 is covered with UHMW 50 on upper and lower faces. The skeleton framework 61 has two ends and a center that is parallel to the axle 14. The skeleton framework 61 ends are rotatably attached to the axle 14 by a pair of bushings 106. The position of skeleton framework 61 on the axle 14 is maintained by a pair of cylindrical spacers 107. Each spacer 107 is positioned on the axle 14 between the elevatable support bushings 106 and a pair of outer axle bearings 108. Those skilled in the art will recognize that bearings of different types may be used in place of the bushings 106 and spacers 107. The axle 14 is [rotably]rotatably mounted to the chassis 9 by the bearings 108 and a bearing 122. Each bearing 108 is fixably attached to and located on the axle 14 adjacent the two end portions 21 and 55. The bearings 108 are fixably attached and located in the center of axle 14 and is supported by stationary frame 19. The axle 14 is driven by an electric motor 94. Those skilled in the art will recognize that other types of motor may be used to implement aspects of the invention.

The axle 14 has two end portions 21 and 55 that cover[s] the first embodiment 10. The motor 94 is attached to the axle 14 by a keyed sprocket and an endless roller chain 104. The turning motion of the axle 14 is transferred to a pair of keyed sprockets 12 that are mounted on the ends of the axle 14.